

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5419

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SUBJECT: CUBANA CRASH - FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

REF: CARACAS 12707, CARACAS 12253

SUMMARY - SUSPECTS LUGO AND RICARDO MAY BE ARRAIGNED OCTOBER 28
ALTHOUGH INTERIOR MINISTER LEPAGE STATES NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE
AS TO WHETHER THEY WILL BE TRIED BY MILITARY OR CIVILIAN COURTS.
OFFICIAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE FISCAL GENERAL OPINES, HOWEVER, THAT
THEY WILL BE TRIED BY CIVILIAN COURTS. MEANWHILE, TWO MORE SUSPECTS
WERE ARRAIGNED OCTOBER 27 AND OCTOBER 28 PRESS REPORTS THREE MORE
ARRESTS. END SUMMARY

1. VENEZUELAN CITIZENS FREDDY LUGO AND HERNAN RICARDO ARE BEING
HELD IN DISIP (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SECURITY POLICE) HEADQUARTERS,
PENDING A DECISION BY THE GOV AS TO WHICH COURT WILL HAVE
JURISDICTION OVER THEM. ON OCTOBER 28, IN WIDE-RANGING IMPROMPTU
PRESS CONFERENCE, INTERIOR MINISTER OCTAVIO LEPAGE SAID THAT THE GOV
IS AWAITING EVIDENCE FROM TRINIDAD REGARDING THE TWO, AND THAT NO
DECISION HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING WHETHER THEY WILL BE TRIED BY
MILITARY OR CIVILIAN COURTS. HOWEVER, AN OFFICIAL OF THE OFFICE OF
THE FISCAL GENERAL TOLD THE PRESS THAT THEIR CRIME INVOLVES A CIVIL
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CRIME AND THAT THEY WILL BE TRIED BY CIVILIAN COURTS. IN ADDITION,

THE FISCAL GENERAL HAS ASSIGNED TWO OF HIS OFFICIALS TO FOLLOW THE CASE. THE JUDGE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CUBANA BOMBING SUSPECTS, DRA. DELIA ESTABA MORENO REFUSED COMMENT, BUT THE PRESS SPECULATES THAT LUGO AND RICARDO WILL BE TRIED BEFORE THE FIRST COURT OF CRIMINAL INSTANCE WHICH ISSUED THE WARRANT FOR THEIR DETENTION AND THAT THEY MAY BE ARRAIGNED OCTOBER 28.

2. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, CALSA MARY TOLEDO ALEMAN (SEE CARACAS 12707) WAS ARRAIGNED OCTOBER 27 IN CONNECTION WITH THE CUBANA CRASH, AS WAS ANOTHER SUSPECT, FRANCISCO NUNEZ VALLEJO. BOTH REFUSED COMMENT TO NEWSMEN AS THEY ENTERED THE JUDGE'S CHAMBERS.

3. AFTERNOON PRESS OF OCTOBER 28 REPORTS THREE MORE ARRESTS. ONE OF THOSE MENTIONED, DIEGO ARGUELLO, IS BUSINESS PARTNER OF LUIS POSADA I N THE ICI PRIVATE INVESTIGATION AGENCY. POSADA HAS BEEN UNDER ARREST FOR SOME TIME (SEE CARACAS 12253). NEWSPAPER STATES ARGUELLO IS OF CUBAN ORIGIN, ONCE HELD HIGH POLICE POSITION AND IS ALSO IMPLICATED I N THE TERRORIST PLANS UNDER INVESTIGATION. THE OTHER TWO ARRESTED ARE MARIA INES VEGA IDENTIFIED AS HERNAN RICARDO'S GIRLFRIEND AND PAULA VALLADARES, A RECEPTIONIST AT THE ICI AGENCY.
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